

# EDITORIAL

## Students' hunger for communication link

Ideally, the Administration should have contemplated every possible emergency, and have a contingency plan to react to every situation. Unfortunately for York's students, this is not the case.

Roughly three weeks ago, about 90 students fell victim to a flu-like virus confined primarily to Stong and Bethune Colleges, with six students taken to hospital after suffering from violent episodes of vomiting and diarrhoea. Dozens of other afflicted residents displayed the same symptoms. Food poisoning was originally suspected as the culprit by both students and the Administration.

The initial University response to the epidemic was swift. The Public Health Department was called in, a doctor was placed on call and signs were quickly posted in the residences noting the presence of the unknown virus and that food-poisoning was suspected. Additionally, 30 food samples from the Marriott-run Stong cafeteria were collected and sent to both a private laboratory and the North York Board of Health for testing. Two weeks later, Housing and Food Services Director Norm Crandles received the test results which ruled out food-poisoning, and stated that the likely cause of the epidemic was a flu-virus.

But during the two-week interim between the outbreak and completed lab reports, students were left in limbo. Information regarding the incident was scarce. For many students the sole source of news came from articles in *The Toronto Star*.

Students reacted by organizing a protest rally, attended by roughly 50 people, but it was practically unproductive. This meeting lacked focus, and when Crandles and Marriott's representative, Jim Fougere, showed up to address student concerns, they were turned away.

At this time the Administration should have realized there was a serious communication problem with the students. But rather than taking an active step, such as organizing their own meeting or contacting the general media, Crandles waited a week to address yet another student rally.

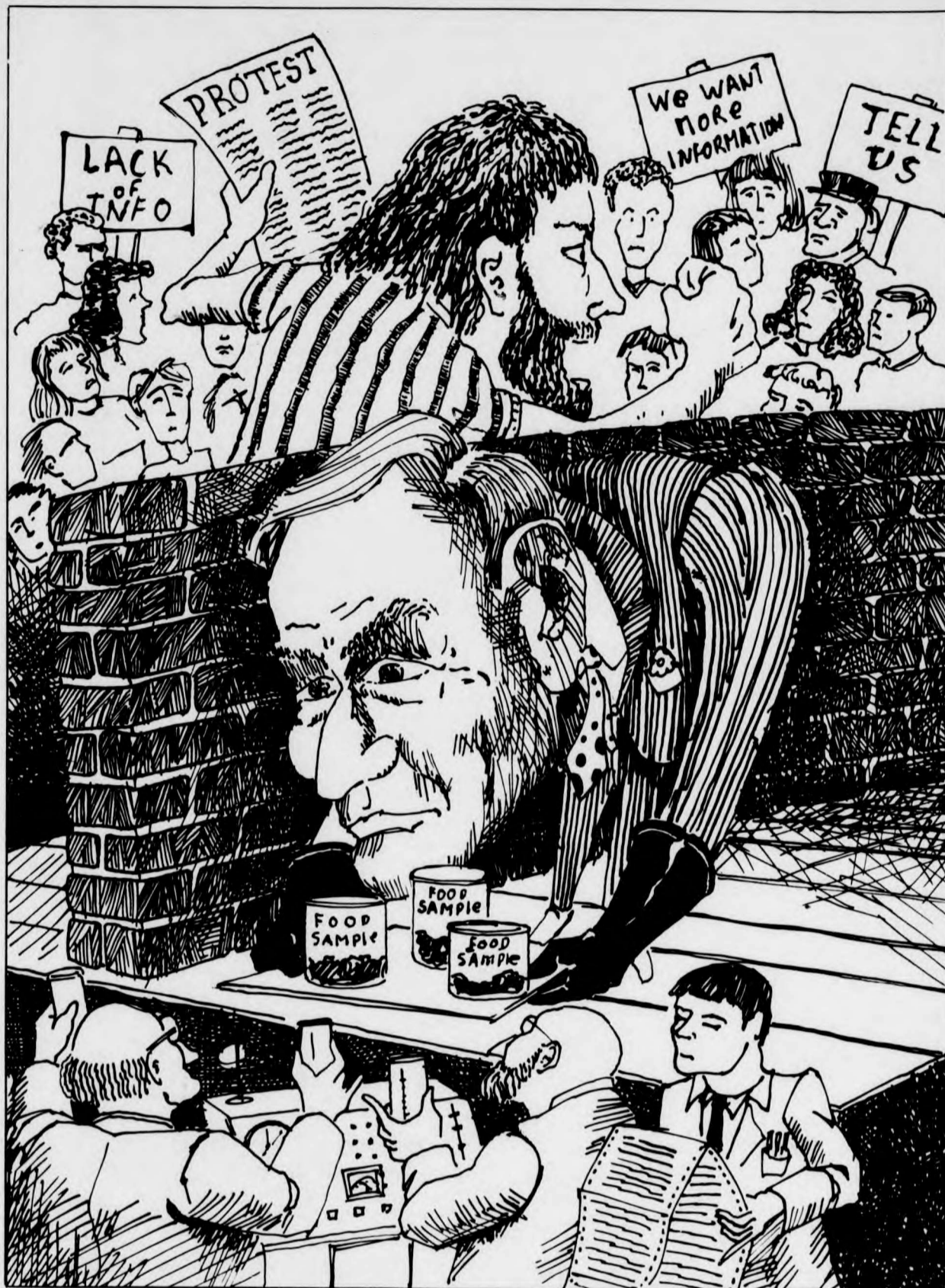
Finally, a week after the first protest meeting, Crandles was confronted by over 200 angry students at Stong's Junior Common Room. He was presented with a 1,100-named petition which demanded an investigation and stated that the Administration's response to the situation was unacceptable.

By acknowledging his error, Crandles shifted the momentum of the protest by taking full responsibility for the breakdown in communication, and openly admitting that the University's response to the matter was "not fully integrated." He also acknowledged the "clear need for a comprehensive action in the case of similar outbreaks."

If the Administration had a comprehensive contingency plan in place, there would have been no need for the incident to deteriorate to a protest level. The protests only served to inflame students about a variety of extraneous concerns — such as Marriott's quality of service.

Crandles has already taken many steps towards preventing such an incident from recurring, according to a report he completed last week. A committee will be struck, whose purpose will be to form a contingency plan, and ensure effective communication with the students.

These measures should essentially eliminate the politicking which has gone on between the administration and student leaders, a situation that cannot be tolerated in any sense when students' health is concerned.



Food Services' communication barrier

We will publish, space permitting, letters under 250 words. They must be typed, triple-spaced, accompanied by writer's name and phone number. We may edit for length. Libellous material will be rejected. Deliver to 111 Central Square during business hours.

## LETTERS

### CHRY a fair employer?

Dear Editor,

Daniel Zaretsky protests too much.

Letters written to *Excalibur* asking for answers to questions about CHRY's fund-raising drive and student support are hardly the "attacks" that Zaretsky seems to think they are. It is little wonder, however, that questions are being asked.

Consider the list of controversies which have engulfed Radio York in Zaretsky's short tenure as station manager. 1) Five year station veteran and news director, John Doyle, is fired in a manner which brazenly contravenes the Canada Labour Code (*Excalibur*, Oct. 13). 2) Zaretsky is involved in what was clearly a rigged hearing into the firing (*Excalibur*, Nov. 10). 3) Many groups and prominent individuals on campus question Radio York's commitment to fair employment practices because of the manner in which Doyle was treated (*Lexicon*, Jan. 17). 4) A member of the Radio York Board of Directors questions numerous aspects of the firing and is then made the subject of defamatory

letters written and circulated by Daniel Zaretsky, Kaan Yigit and Pat Anderson (*Voodoo*, January). 5) A claim for damages for defamation is filed in the Provincial Court against Zaretsky, Yigit and Anderson (*Voodoo*, January). 6) A campus paper reports that Zaretsky took a station-funded trip to Nicaragua just a few weeks before the station began pleading for funds on-air (*Obiter Dicta*, Jan. 30).

Can anyone remember this kind of controversy existing before Zaretsky took over as station manager?

No one at York can begrudge CHRY its success nor can anyone deny the effort and achievement of those people who worked hard over the years to establish the station. But, and there are a lot of "buts," when CHRY is discussed these days on campus, something has gone wrong at the station, and Zaretsky's protests ring hollow in the light of all the controversy which surrounds the station.

D.A. Borkowski

### CHRY "fills the void"

In response to Andrew Lee ("Why pay for CHRY?") you imply that

CHRY is taking advantage of the York student body because it is using student money, without their knowledge, to fund activities that do not represent the majority of their tastes in music nor their more general concerns. Therefore it is the legitimacy of CHRY's purpose, and its validity as a medium that can represent the tastes in music and address the concerns of this majority that is in question.

This is not a reflection of a problem with CHRY or its motives. It is a reflection of a problem with the thinking that undergirds the mainstream system of beliefs, a system of beliefs that socializes many people not only York students, to be apathetic, critical, and/or dismissive towards the undertakings of marginal organizations and their activities.

CHRY is an alternative radio station that speaks from the margins. Alternative media exist because the mainstream system of beliefs, and the institutions and attitudes, such as yours, that support it, do not meet the needs and concerns of minority groups, whether they be socio-cultural or more importantly, economic. Therefore they attempt to address these concerns and validate the existence of these needs to fill the

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